

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

James Jones,

Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.

Therefore, 40 CFR chapter I is amended as follows:

PART 180—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321(q), 346a and 371.

2. Section 180.471 is revised to read as follows:

§ 180.471 Furilazole; tolerances for residues.

(a) *General.* Tolerances to expire February 25, 2002 are established for residues of furilazole; 3-dichloroacetyl-5-(2-furanyl)-2,2-dimethyloxazolidine (CAS Reg. No.121776-33-8) when used as an inert ingredient (safener) in pesticide formulations in or on the following raw agricultural commodities:

Commodity	Parts per million	Revocations/Expiration Date
Corn, field, forage.	0.01	February 25, 2002
Corn, field, grain.	0.01	February 25, 2002
Corn, field, stover.	0.01	February 25, 2002
Corn, pop, grain.	0.01	February 25, 2002
Corn, pop, stover.	0.01	February 25, 2002

(b) *Section 18 emergency exemptions.* [Reserved]

(c) *Tolerances with regional registrations.* [Reserved]

(d) *Indirect or inadvertent residues.* [Reserved]

[FR Doc. 00-4237 Filed 2-22-00; 8:45 am]

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 180**

[OPP-300970; FRL-6490-7]

RIN 2070-AB78

Acrylic Graft Copolymer, Polyester Block Copolymer and Polyester Random Copolymer; Tolerance Exemption

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This regulation establishes an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of the polymers methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-monomethoxypolyethylene glycol methacrylate copolymer minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,730, also known as acrylic graft copolymer; 12-hydroxystearic acid-polyethylene glycol copolymer minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 3,690, also known as polyester block copolymer; and polyethylene glycol-polyisobutene anhydride-tall oil fatty acid copolymer also known as polyester random copolymer minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,960, in pesticide formulations applied to growing crops or to raw agricultural commodities after harvest, or animals. Uniqema, formerly ICI Surfactants, 3411 Silverside Road, Box 8340 Wilmington, DE 19803, submitted petitions to EPA under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 requesting exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance for these copolymers. This regulation eliminates the need to establish a maximum permissible level for residues of these polymers.

DATES: This regulation is effective February 23, 2000. Objections and requests for hearings, identified by docket control number OPP-300970, must be received by EPA on or before April 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests may be submitted by mail, in person, or by courier. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit XI. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** To ensure proper receipt by EPA, your objections and hearing requests must identify docket control number OPP-300970 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Indira Gairola, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-6379 and e-mail address: gairola.indira@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information****A. Does This Action Apply to Me?**

You may be affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Cat-egories	NAICS	Examples of Potentially Affected Entities
Industry	111	Crop production
	112	Animal production
	311	Food manufacturing
	32532	Pesticide manufacturing

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether or not this action might apply to certain entities. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of this Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations" and then look up the entry for this document under the "**Federal Register—Environmental Documents.**" You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-300970. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI).

This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic comments submitted during an applicable comment period is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall 2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

II. Background and Statutory Findings

In the **Federal Register** of March 17, 1999 (64 FR 13192) (FRL-6066-7), EPA issued a notice pursuant to section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA) (Public Law 104-170) announcing the filing of pesticide tolerance petitions (PP 8E4987, 8E4988, and 8E4989) by Uniqema, formerly ICI Surfactants, 3411 Silverside Road, Box 8340 Wilmington, DE 19803. This notice included a summary of the petitions prepared by the petitioner. There were no comments received in response to the notice of filing.

Pesticide petitions 8E4987, 8E4988 and 8E4989 requested that 40 CFR 180.1001(c) be amended by revising the existing tolerance exemptions for methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-monomethoxypolyethylene glycol methacrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 119724-54-8); 12-hydroxystearic acid-polyethylene glycol copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 70142-34-6) and polyethylene glycol-polyisobutenyl anhydride-tall oil fatty acid copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 68650-28-2), and that 40 CFR 180.1001(e) be amended by establishing an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance for residues of these copolymers.

Section 408(c)(2)(A)(i) of the FFDCA allows EPA to establish an exemption from the requirement for a tolerance (the legal limit for a pesticide chemical residue in or on a food) only if EPA determines that the tolerance is "safe." Section 408(c)(2)(A)(ii) defines "safe" to mean that "there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue, including all anticipated dietary exposures and all other exposures for which there is reliable information." This includes exposure through drinking water and in residential settings, but does not include

occupational exposure. Section 408(b)(2)(C) requires EPA to give special consideration to exposure of infants and children to the pesticide chemical residue in establishing an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance and to "ensure that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result to infants and children from aggregate exposure to the pesticide chemical residue..." and specifies factors EPA is to consider in establishing an exemption.

III. Inert Ingredient Definition

Inert ingredients are all ingredients that are not active ingredients as defined in 40 CFR 153.125 and include, but are not limited to, the following types of ingredients (except when they have a pesticidal efficacy of their own): Solvents such as alcohols and hydrocarbons; surfactants such as polyoxyethylene polymers and fatty acids; carriers such as clay and diatomaceous earth; thickeners such as carrageenan and modified cellulose; wetting, spreading, and dispersing agents; propellants in aerosol dispensers; microencapsulating agents; and emulsifiers. The term "inert" is not intended to imply nontoxicity; the ingredient may or may not be chemically active. Generally, EPA has exempted inert ingredients from the requirement of a tolerance based on the low toxicity of the individual inert ingredients.

IV. Risk Assessment and Statutory Findings

EPA establishes exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance only in those cases where it can be clearly demonstrated that the risks from aggregate exposure to pesticide chemical residues under reasonably foreseeable circumstances will pose no appreciable risks to human health. In order to determine the risks from aggregate exposure to pesticide inert ingredients, the Agency considers the toxicity of the inert in conjunction with possible exposure to residues of the inert ingredient through food, drinking water, and through other exposures that occur as a result of pesticide use in residential settings. If EPA is able to determine that a finite tolerance is not necessary to ensure that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to the inert ingredient, an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance may be established.

Consistent with section 408(b)(2)(D) of FFDCA, EPA has reviewed the available scientific data and other relevant information in support of this

action and considered its validity, completeness and reliability and the relationship of this information to human risk. EPA has also considered available information concerning the variability of the sensitivities of major identifiable subgroups of consumers, including infants and children. In the case of certain chemical substances that are defined as polymers, the Agency has established a set of criteria to identify categories of polymers that should present minimal or no risk. The definition of a polymer is given in 40 CFR 723.250(b). The following exclusion criteria for identifying these low risk polymers are described in 40 CFR 723.250(d).

1. The polymers, acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer are not cationic polymers nor are they reasonably anticipated to become cationic polymers in a natural aquatic environment.

2. The polymers contain as an integral part of their composition the atomic elements carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen.

3. The polymers do not contain as an integral part of their composition, except as impurities, any element other than those listed in 40 CFR 723.250(d)(2)(ii).

4. The polymers are neither designed nor can they be reasonably anticipated to substantially degrade, decompose, or depolymerize.

5. The polymers are manufactured or imported from monomers and/or reactants that are already included on the TSCA Chemical Substance Inventory or manufactured under an applicable TSCA section 5 exemption.

6. The polymers are not water absorbing polymers with number average molecular weights (MW) greater than or equal to 10,000 daltons. Additionally, the polymers, acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer, also meet as required the following exemption criteria specified in 40 CFR 723.250(e).

7. The polymer's number average molecular weights (MW) of 2,730, 3,690, and 2,960, respectively are greater than 1,000 and less than 10,000 daltons. The polymers contain less than 10% oligomeric material below MW 500 and less than 25% oligomeric material below MW 1,000, and the polymers do not contain any reactive functional groups.

Thus, the polymers acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer meet all the criteria to be considered low risk polymers under 40 CFR 723.250. Based on their conformance to the above

criteria, no mammalian toxicity is anticipated from dietary, inhalation, or dermal exposure to acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer.

V. Aggregate Exposures

For the purposes of assessing potential exposure under these exemptions, EPA considered that acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer could be present in all raw and processed agricultural commodities and drinking water, and that non-occupational non-dietary exposure was possible. The number average MWs of acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer are 2,730, 3,690 and 2,960 daltons, respectively. Generally, polymers the size of these would be poorly absorbed through the intact gastrointestinal tract or through intact human skin. Since acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer conform to the criteria that identify a low risk polymer, there are no concerns for risks associated with any potential exposure scenarios that are reasonably foreseeable. Since the Agency has determined that there is a reasonable certainty that no harm will result from aggregate exposure to acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer or polyester random copolymer a tolerance is not necessary.

VI. Cumulative Effects

Section 408 (b)(2)(D)(v) of FFDCA requires that, when considering whether to establish, modify, or revoke a tolerance or tolerance exemption, the Agency consider "available information" concerning the cumulative effects of a particular chemical's residues and "other substances that have a common mechanism of toxicity." The Agency has not made any conclusions as to whether or not acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer or polyester random copolymer share a common mechanism of toxicity with any other chemicals. However, acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer conform to the criteria that identify a low risk polymer. Due to the expected lack of toxicity based on the above conformance, the Agency has determined that a cumulative risk assessment is not necessary.

VII. Determination of Safety for U.S. Population

Based on the conformance to the criteria used to identify a low risk

polymer, EPA concludes that there is a reasonable certainty of no harm to the U.S. population from aggregate exposure to residues of acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer or polyester random copolymer.

VIII. Determination of Safety for Infants and Children

FFDCA section 408 provides that EPA shall apply an additional tenfold margin of safety for infants and children in the case of threshold effects to account for prenatal and postnatal toxicity and the completeness of the data base unless EPA concludes that a different margin of safety will be safe for infants and children. Due to the expected low toxicity of acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer and polyester random copolymer, EPA has not used a safety factor analysis to assess the risk. For the same reasons the additional tenfold safety factor is unnecessary.

IX. Other Considerations

A. Endocrine Disruptors

There is no available evidence that acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer or polyester random copolymer are endocrine disruptors.

B. Existing Exemptions from a Tolerance

Currently in 40 CFR 180.1001(c) methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-monomethoxypolyethylene glycol methacrylate copolymer minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 18,000; 12-hydroxystearic acid-polyethylene glycol copolymer (CAS Number 70142-34-6) minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 5,000; and polyethylene glycol-polyisobutenyl anhydride-tall oil fatty acid copolymer minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 5,000 are all exempt from the requirement of a tolerance when used as a surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, or related adjuvants.

C. Analytical Enforcement Methodology

An analytical method is not required for enforcement purposes since the Agency is establishing an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance without any numerical limitation.

D. International Tolerances

The Agency is not aware of any country requiring a tolerance for acrylic graft copolymer; polyester block copolymer or polyester random copolymer nor have any CODEX Maximum Residue Levels (MRLs) been established for any food crops at this time.

X. Conclusion

Accordingly, EPA finds that exempting methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-monomethoxypolyethylene glycol methacrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 119724-54-8) minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,730; 12-hydroxystearic acid-polyethylene glycol copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 70142-34-6); and polyethylene glycol-polyisobutenyl anhydride-tall oil fatty acid copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 68650-28-2) from the requirement of a tolerance will be safe.

XI. Objections and Hearing Requests

Under section 408(g) of the FFDCA, as amended by the FQPA, any person may file an objection to any aspect of this regulation and may also request a hearing on those objections. The EPA procedural regulations which govern the submission of objections and requests for hearings appear in 40 CFR part 178. Although the procedures in those regulations require some modification to reflect the amendments made to the FFDCA by the FQPA of 1996, EPA will continue to use those procedures, with appropriate adjustments, until the necessary modifications can be made. The new section 408(g) provides essentially the same process for persons to "object" to a regulation for an exemption from the requirement of a tolerance issued by EPA under new section 408(d), as was provided in the old FFDCA sections 408 and 409. However, the period for filing objections is now 60 days, rather than 30 days.

A. What Do I Need to Do to File an Objection or Request a Hearing?

You must file your objection or request a hearing on this regulation in accordance with the instructions provided in this unit and in 40 CFR part 178. To ensure proper receipt by EPA, you must identify docket control number OPP-300970 in the subject line on the first page of your submission. All requests must be in writing, and must be mailed or delivered to the Hearing Clerk on or before April 24, 2000.

1. *Filing the request.* Your objection must specify the specific provisions in the regulation that you object to, and the grounds for the objections (40 CFR 178.25). If a hearing is requested, the objections must include a statement of the factual issues(s) on which a hearing is requested, the requestor's contentions on such issues, and a summary of any evidence relied upon by the objector (40 CFR 178.27). Information submitted in connection with an objection or hearing request may be claimed confidential by marking any part or all of that

information as CBI. Information so marked will not be disclosed except in accordance with procedures set forth in 40 CFR part 2. A copy of the information that does not contain CBI must be submitted for inclusion in the public record. Information not marked confidential may be disclosed publicly by EPA without prior notice.

Mail your written request to: Office of the Hearing Clerk (1900), Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460. You may also deliver your request to the Office of the Hearing Clerk in Rm. M3708, 401 M Street, SW., Washington, DC 20460. The Office of the Hearing Clerk is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The telephone number for the Office of the Hearing Clerk is (202) 260-4865.

2. *Tolerance fee payment.* If you file an objection or request a hearing, you must also pay the fee prescribed by 40 CFR 180.33(i) or request a waiver of that fee pursuant to 40 CFR 180.33(m). You must mail the fee to: EPA Headquarters Accounting Operations Branch, Office of Pesticide Programs, P.O. Box 360277M, Pittsburgh, PA 15251. Please identify the fee submission by labeling it "Tolerance Petition Fees."

EPA is authorized to waive any fee requirement "when in the judgement of the Administrator such a waiver or refund is equitable and not contrary to the purpose of this subsection." For additional information regarding the waiver of these fees, you may contact James Tompkins by phone at (703) 305-5697, by e-mail at tompkins.jim@epa.gov, or by mailing a request for information to Mr. Tompkins at Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

If you would like to request a waiver of the tolerance objection fees, you must mail your request for such a waiver to: James Hollins, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, M St., SW., Washington, DC 20460.

3. *Copies for the Docket.* In addition to filing an objection or hearing request with the Hearing Clerk as described in Unit XI.A.1., you should also send a copy of your request to the PIRIB for its inclusion in the official record that is described in Unit I.B.2. Mail your copies, identified by docket control number OPP-300970, to: Public Information and Records Integrity Branch, Information Resources and Services Division (7502C), Office of

Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460. In person or by courier, bring a copy to the location of the PIRIB described in Unit I.B.2. You may also send an electronic copy of your request via e-mail to: opp-docket@epa.gov. Please use an ASCII file format and avoid the use of special characters and any form of encryption. Copies of electronic objections and hearing requests will also be accepted on disks in WordPerfect 6.1/8.0 file format or ASCII file format. Do not include any CBI in your electronic copy. You may also submit an electronic copy of your request at many Federal Depository Libraries.

B. When Will the Agency Grant a Request for a Hearing?

A request for a hearing will be granted if the Administrator determines that the material submitted shows the following: There is a genuine and substantial issue of fact; there is a reasonable possibility that available evidence identified by the requestor would, if established resolve one or more of such issues in favor of the requestor, taking into account uncontested claims or facts to the contrary; and resolution of the factual issues(s) in the manner sought by the requestor would be adequate to justify the action requested (40 CFR 178.32).

XII. Regulatory Assessment Requirements

This final rule establishes exemptions from the tolerance requirement under FFDCA section 408(d) in response to petitions submitted to the Agency. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has exempted these types of actions from review under Executive Order 12866, entitled *Regulatory Planning and Review* (58 FR 51735, October 4, 1993). This final rule does not contain any information collections subject to OMB approval under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA), 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*, or impose any enforceable duty or contain any unfunded mandate as described under Title II of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 (UMRA) (Public Law 104-4). Nor does it require any prior consultation as specified by Executive Order 13084, entitled *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments* (63 FR 27655, May 19, 1998); special considerations as required by Executive Order 12898, entitled *Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations* (59 FR 7629, February 16, 1994); or require OMB review or any Agency action under Executive Order

13045, entitled *Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks* (62 FR 19885, April 23, 1997). This action does not involve any technical standards that would require Agency consideration of voluntary consensus standards pursuant to section 12(d) of the National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act of 1995 (NTTAA), Public Law 104-113, section 12(d) (15 U.S.C. 272 note). Since tolerances and exemptions that are established on the basis of a petition under FFDCA section 408(d), such as the exemption in this final rule, do not require the issuance of a proposed rule, the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA) (5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.*) do not apply. In addition, the Agency has determined that this action will not have a substantial direct effect on States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government, as specified in Executive Order 13132, entitled *Federalism* (64 FR 43255, August 10, 1999). Executive Order 13132 requires EPA to develop an accountable process to ensure "meaningful and timely input by State and local officials in the development of regulatory policies that have federalism implications." "Policies that have federalism implications" is defined in the Executive Order to include regulations that have "substantial direct effects on the States, on the relationship between the national government and the States, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities among the various levels of government." This final rule directly regulates growers, food processors, food handlers and food retailers, not States. This action does not alter the relationships or distribution of power and responsibilities established by Congress in the preemption provisions of FFDCA section 408(n)(4).

XIII. Submission to Congress and the Comptroller General

The Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 801 *et seq.*, as added by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996, generally provides that before a rule may take effect, the agency promulgating the rule must submit a rule report, which includes a copy of the rule, to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General of the United States. EPA will submit a report containing this rule and other required information to the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, and the Comptroller General of the United States prior to publication of this rule in the **Federal Register**. This rule is not a

“major rule” as defined by 5 U.S.C. 804(2).

List of Subjects in 40 CFR Part 180

Environmental protection, Administrative practice and procedure, Agricultural commodities, Pesticides and pests, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Dated: February 15, 2000.
James Jones,
Director, Registration Division, Office of Pesticide Programs.P='03'≤

Therefore, 40 CFR chapter I is amended as follows:

PART 180—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 180 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 21 U.S.C. 321(q), 346(a) and 371.P='04'≤

2. In § 180.1001 the table in paragraph (c) is amended by revising the entries for the following inert ingredients and in paragraph (e) by adding alphabetically the following inert ingredients to read as follows:

§ 180.1001 Exemptions from the requirement of a tolerance.

* * * * *

(c) * * *

Inert ingredients	Limits	Uses
* * * * *	* * * * *	
12-Hydroxystearic acid-polyethylene glycol copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 70142-34-6) minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 3,690.	Surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, related adjuvant.
* * * * *	* * * * *	
Methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-monomethoxypolyethylene glycol methacrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 119724-54-8) minium number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,730.	Surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, related adjuvant.
* * * * *	* * * * *	
Polyethylene glycol-polyisobutenyl anhydride-tall oil fatty acid copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 68650-28-2) minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,960.	Surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, related adjuvant.
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* * * * * (e) * * *

Inert ingredients	Limits	Uses
* * * * *	* * * * *	
12-Hydroxystearic acid-polyethylene glycol copolymer (CAS Reg. No. 70142-34-6) minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 3,690.	Surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, related adjuvant.
* * * * *	* * * * *	
Methyl methacrylate-methacrylic acid-monomethoxypolyethylene glycol methacrylate copolymer (CAS Reg. No.119724-54-8) minium number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,730.	Surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, related adjuvant.
* * * * *	* * * * *	
Polyethylene glycol-polyisobutenyl anhydride-tall oil fatty acid (CAS Reg. No. 68650-28-2) minimum number average molecular weight (in amu) 2,960.	Surfactant, dispersing agent, suspending agent, related adjuvant.
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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**40 CFR Part 180**

[OPP-300975; FRL-6489-8]

RIN 2070-AB78

Zinc Phosphide; Extension/Amendment of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Final rule.

SUMMARY: This regulation extends and amends a time-limited tolerance for residues of phosphine resulting from the use of the rodenticide zinc phosphide in or on alfalfa forage and hay at 1 part per million (ppm) for an additional 1-year and 4-month period. This tolerance will expire and is revoked on December 31, 2002. This action is in response to EPA's granting of an emergency exemption under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act authorizing use of the pesticide on alfalfa before new growth attains a length of 2 inches. Section 408(l)(6) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act requires EPA to establish a time-limited tolerance or exemption from the requirement for a tolerance for pesticide chemical residues in food that will result from the use of a pesticide under an emergency exemption granted by EPA under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act.

DATES: This regulation is effective February 23, 2000. Objections and requests for hearings, identified by docket control number OPP-300975, must be received by EPA on or before April 24, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Written objections and hearing requests may be submitted by mail, in person, or by courier. Please follow the detailed instructions for each method as provided in Unit III. of the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION.** To ensure proper receipt by EPA, your objections and hearing requests must identify docket control number OPP-300975 in the subject line on the first page of your response.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: By mail: Libby Pemberton, Registration Division (7505C), Office of Pesticide Programs, Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Building, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW., Washington, DC 20460; telephone number: (703) 308-9364; and e-mail address: pemberton.libby@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. General Information***A. Does This Action Apply to Me?*

You may be affected by this action if you are an agricultural producer, food manufacturer, or pesticide manufacturer. Potentially affected categories and entities may include, but are not limited to:

Cat-egories	NAICS codes	Examples of poten-tially affected entities
Industry	111 112 311 32532	Crop production Animal production Food manufacturing Pesticide manufac-turing

This listing is not intended to be exhaustive, but rather provides a guide for readers regarding entities likely to be affected by this action. Other types of entities not listed in the table could also be affected. The North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS) codes have been provided to assist you and others in determining whether or not this action might apply to certain entities. If you have questions regarding the applicability of this action to a particular entity, consult the person listed under "**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT.**"

B. How Can I Get Additional Information, Including Copies of This Document and Other Related Documents?

1. *Electronically.* You may obtain electronic copies of this document, and certain other related documents that might be available electronically, from the EPA Internet Home Page at <http://www.epa.gov/>. To access this document, on the Home Page select "Laws and Regulations" and then look up the entry for this document under the "**Federal Register—Environmental Documents.**" You can also go directly to the **Federal Register** listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/>.

2. *In person.* The Agency has established an official record for this action under docket control number OPP-300975. The official record consists of the documents specifically referenced in this action, and other information related to this action, including any information claimed as Confidential Business Information (CBI). This official record includes the documents that are physically located in the docket, as well as the documents that are referenced in those documents. The public version of the official record does not include any information claimed as CBI. The public version of the official record, which includes printed, paper versions of any electronic

comments submitted during an applicable comment period is available for inspection in the Public Information and Records Integrity Branch (PIRIB), Rm. 119, Crystal Mall 2, 1921 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, VA, from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. The PIRIB telephone number is (703) 305-5805.

II. Background and Statutory Findings

EPA issued a final rule, published in the **Federal Register** of August 25, 1998 (63 FR 45176) (FRL-6021-6), which announced that on its own initiative under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a and (l)(6), as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) (Public Law 104-170) it established time-limited tolerances for the residues of phosphine resulting from the use of the rodenticide zinc phosphide in or on alfalfa (forage, hay) at 0.1 ppm, with an expiration date of February 1, 2000. EPA established the tolerances because section 408(l)(6) of the FFDCA requires EPA to establish a time-limited tolerance or exemption from the requirement for a tolerance for pesticide chemical residues in food that will result from the use of a pesticide under an emergency exemption granted by EPA under FIFRA section 18. Such tolerances can be established without providing notice or period for public comment.

EPA, subsequently, issued a final rule, published in the **Federal Register** of July 28, 1999 (64 FR 40769) (FRL-6090-9), which announced that on its own initiative under section 408 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FFDCA), 21 U.S.C. 346a, as amended by the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 (FQPA) (Public Law 104-170) it extended the time-limited tolerance for the residues of phosphine resulting from the use of the rodenticide zinc phosphide in or on alfalfa (forage, hay) at 0.1 ppm, with an expiration date of August 1, 2001. EPA established the tolerance because section 408(l)(6) of the FFDCA requires EPA to establish a time-limited tolerance or exemption from the requirement for a tolerance for pesticide chemical residues in food that will result from the use of a pesticide under an emergency exemption granted by EPA under section 18 of the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Such tolerances can be established without providing notice or period for public comment.